



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 – OPEN SESSION

The meeting was held at the Western Interdisciplinary Research Building, Room 3000 and on Zoom.

PRESENT: Keith Gibbons, Chair
Amy Bryson, Secretary

Kenisha Arora	Marlene McGrath
Michelle Banik	Stephen Pitel
Susan Bennett	Geoff Pollock
Wade Boye	Cecil Rorabeck
Arzie Chant	Effie Sapuridis
Ethan Chen	Alan Shepard
Greg Dick	Sarah Shortreed (Vice-Chair)
Lori Higgs	David Simmonds
Ed Holder	Sam Trosow
Beth MacDougall- Shackleton	Ken Yeung

Regrets: Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Linda Hasenfratz, Stephen Poloz, Bruce Ross, Michael Surkont

By Invitation: Althea Blackburn-Evans, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, Lynn Logan, Eric Mallory, Jane O'Brien, Jeff O'Hagan, Ryan Palmer, Lesley Rigg, Florentine Strzelczyk

Secretariat Resource: Bonnie Brown

Chair K. Gibbons called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement

E. Sapuridis offered a land acknowledgement.

K. Gibbons shared welcoming remarks and expressed his appreciation of the leadership team and administration. He further reflected on the richness of experience, education, and diversity of the Board of Governors noting he is looking forward to a successful year.

BG.22-142 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

Moved by M. Banik, seconded by S. Trosow:

That the agenda for the open session be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

BG.22-143 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of June 28, 2022**

Moved by S. Shortreed, seconded by C. Rorabeck:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2022, be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes – None.

BG.22-144 **Report of the President**

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, reported on the positive start to the year and acknowledged staff, faculty, and the student leadership at USC and SOGS. The activities and operations put in place to promote a safe and healthy orientation week were described. In response to a question of clarification, A. Shepard advised the sophomores participating in the two-week training were paid. He further advised the training was mandatory.

A. Shepard reported the new Associate Vice-President (Alumni Affairs), Temi Akin-Aina, will be on campus for Homecoming Weekend. He further highlighted the numerous activities planned for homecoming.

Appreciation was extended to Lesley Rigg noting this was her last meeting as Vice-President (Research). Lesley was thanked for her contributions to Western.

A. Shepard reported enrolment was very strong this year. In response to a question of clarification, A. Shepard confirmed the enrolment is up over last year. He further advised applications across many of the top-tier Universities in Ontario are down. He commented the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) will be reviewing admission standards.

A. Shepard extended his sincere appreciation to his team noting the incredible pressure that has been put on staff and faculty over the last 30+ months.

Questions of clarification were addressed by A. Shepard regarding the vaccination and masking policy.

The discussion centered on concerns raised in relation to the lack of available and affordable housing for graduate students. Questions were raised about the potential availability of units in Bayfield Hall for graduate students. Plans for future student housing were identified. It was noted, however, current student housing needs for graduate students are pressing.

On request, the item was referred to the next meeting of the Property and Finance Committee for follow up discussion regarding the availability of units in Bayfield Hall.

AGENDA

COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

BG.22-145 **Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 2022**

S. Bennett presented for approval the audited financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2022.

S. Bennett reported on the process used by members of the Audit Committee to review the audited financial statements. S. Bennett advised it was a clean audit, there were no audit differences, and there were no major findings. She further added the audit went very smoothly.

Moved by S. Bennett, seconded by L. Higgs:

That on recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the draft audited combined financial statements for the University for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2022.

CARRIED

A question was raised regarding the auditors in that they were the auditors for another Ontario University that found itself in financial difficulties. In response, S. Bennett and L. Logan, Vice President (Operations & Finance), advised frank conversations between the Audit Committee and the auditors did occur with respect to this matter and that a comprehensive review is being conducted as part of the due diligence process in determining their reappointment.

BG.22-146 **Financial Statements Related Corporations**

The financial statements for related companies and other organizations of The University of Western Ontario for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2022, were included in the financial statement package and were provided for the information.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.22-147 **Appointment of a Board Representative to the Vice-President (Research) Search Committee**

S. Shortreed advised a committee is being formed to select a Vice-President (Research). She noted the past practice has been for the Board Chair to serve on these selection committees.

On the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee and by acclamation, Keith Gibbons was appointed as the Board representative on the Vice-President (Research) Selection Committee.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

BG.22-148 **Revisions to Board Election Procedures**

A. Bryson presented for approval changes to the Board Election Procedures. She advised the revisions to the Board Election Procedures will remove specific timelines for nominations, campaigning, and balloting. The changes will align the Board Election Procedures with the Senate Election Procedures and will provide flexibility regarding the timeline for elections as needed.

Questions of clarification were addressed by A. Bryson.

Moved by A. Chant, seconded by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Board Election Procedures as shown in item 4.3(a).

CARRIED

BG.22-149 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by E. Sapuridis, seconded by B. MacDougall-Shackleton:

That the items listed in the consent agenda be approved or received for information by the Board of Governors by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

ITEMS FROM THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

BG.22-150 **New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes**

The report on the terms of reference approved by the Property and Finance

Committee for the new scholarships, awards, and prizes was received for information in item 5.1(a).

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

BG.22-151 **Western Retirement Plans Report**

The report on the Western Retirement Plans presented to the Audit Committee was received for information in item 5.2(a)

BG.22-152 **Annual Report on the Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy**

The Annual Report on the Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy presented to the Audit Committee was received for information in item 5.2(b).

ITEMS FROM THE MCINTOSH GALLERY COMMITTEE

BG.22-153 **McIntosh Gallery Annual Report**

The 2021-2022 Annual Report for the McIntosh Gallery was received for information in item 5.3(a).

BG.22-154 **McIntosh Gallery Year End Financial Statement**

The 2021-22 McIntosh Gallery year-end financial statement approved by the McIntosh Gallery Committee was received for information in item 5.3(b).

ITEMS FROM THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.22-155 **Quarterly Fundraising Report to April 30, 2022**

The quarterly fundraising report to April 30, 2022, presented to the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee was received for information in item 5.4(a).

BG.22-156 **Quarterly Fundraising Report to July 31, 2022**

The quarterly fundraising report to July 31, 2022, presented to the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee was received for information in item 5.4(b).

ITEM FROM THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.22-157 **University Discipline Appeals Committee Membership**

On recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee in the report received in item 5.5(a), and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of the following individuals to the University Discipline Appeals Committee:

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Abigail Scott (term July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)
Karanvir Tiwana (term July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

BG.22-158 **Appointment to the Audit Committee**

The appointment of Salim Chahbar to the Audit Committee was received for information in item 5.5(b).

ITEM FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

BG.22-159 **Revisions to Resolution re: Banking**

On the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee in the report received in item 5.6(a), and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the revisions to the Resolution re: Banking, as presented.

BG.22-160 **Clarification re: Distinguished University Professor and Faculty Scholars**

As a follow up to the previous meeting, a report clarifying the commencement for the increased funding for those Distinguished University Professors and Faculty Scholars awarded in 2020, 2021, 2022 and going forward was received for information in item 5.6(b).

BG.22-161 **Board Annual Work Plan for 2023**

The Board's Annual Work Plan for 2023 was received for information in item 5.6(c).

ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE

BG.22-162 **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report on the academic administrative appointments, as of September 2022, was received for information in item 5.7(a).

BG.22-163 **Report of the Academic Colleague**

The report from the August meetings of the COU Academic Colleagues was received for information in item 5.7(b).

BG.22-164 **Western University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process**

A report providing the newly ratified Institutional Quality Assurance Process was received for information in item 5.7(c).

BG.22-165 **Revision to the transfer credit granted under the Articulation Agreement between King's University College, Western University, and Fanshawe**

College for Qualified Graduates of the Social Services Worker Diploma Program

On the recommendation of Senate in the report received in item 5.7(e), and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the revised articulation agreement between King's University College, Western University, and Fanshawe College for Qualified Graduates of the Social Services Worker Diploma Program.

BG.22-166 **Revision to the transfer credit granted under the Articulation Agreement between King's University College, Western University, and Lambton College for Qualified Graduates of the Social Services Worker Diploma Program**

On the recommendation of Senate in the report received in item 5.7(f), and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the revised articulation agreement between King's University College, Western University, and Lambton College for Qualified Graduates of the Social Services Worker Diploma Program.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM REFERRED BY SENATE

BG.22-167 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a new degree designation of Master of Health Sciences (MHSc) for the Applied Health Sciences field of the existing Master of Clinical Science (MCISc) in Advanced Health Care Practice**

A. Chant noted his support for the recommendation as it addresses previous concerns raised in 2019 at Senate by staff who suggested the program did not have a clinical component.

Moved by A. Chant, seconded by C. Rorabeck:

That on the recommendation of Senate the Board of Governors approve that effective September 1, 2022, a new degree designation of Master of Health Sciences (MHSc) be introduced for the Applied Health Sciences field of the existing Master of Clinical Science (MCISc) in Advanced Health Care Practice.

CARRIED

BG.22-168 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

In relation to the follow up requested of Administration regarding student housing, Board members engaged in a discussion about the distinction between

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governance and operations as it pertains to questions asked, the discussion at the meeting, and requests for follow up from Administration.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

K. Gibbons
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary